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(54) Title: MEDICAMENTS COMPRISING RELAXIN AND THEIR USE

(57) Abstract

Use of relaxin in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and prevention of a condition selected from cutaneous aging, androgenetic alopecia and related conditions.

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MEDICAMENTS COMPRISING RELAXIN AND THEIR USE

FIELD AND BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to use of relaxin in the manufacture of medicaments having a novel application, to a method in which relaxin is utilized for the treatment and prevention of certain conditions and to pharmaceutical compositions comprising relaxin.

Relaxin otherwise known as Cervilaxin, and formerly referred to as Releasin, is a polypeptide hormone secreted by the corpora lutea of many mammalian species during pregnancy.

As described e.g. in U.S. Patent No. 3,096,246, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference, relaxin is present in the ovaries of animals and may be extracted therefrom. It is believed to be a hormone of pregnancy and has aroused great interest in the field of medical research. For instance, it has been known to cause uterine cervix relaxation in cows; to increase the dilatability of the uterine cervix in ovariectomized estrogen-primed hogs; to cause definite milk let-down in sheep, and, to a lesser extent, in cows, and to cause marked lobulo-alveolar growth of the mammary gland in rats; and, in the clinic, it has been found to cause dilation of the uterine cervix in near-term pregnant women who fail to dilate after injections of pitocin, and to stop premature labor in certain female patients, allowing them to go to term.

EP 08664g, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference, relates to the molecular cloning and characterization of the gene sequence coding for porcine relaxin. Thus, recombinant DNA techniques for the preparation of porcine relaxin were described more than ten years ago. However, before the advent of the present invention application of relaxin has been restricted essentially to pregnancy- and gynecologically-related uses.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It has now been found in accordance with the present invention that relaxin can be used to treat and prevent cutaneous aging, androgenetic alopecia and related conditions, and thus to encourage hair growth and to prevent hair loss.

Thus in one aspect, the invention provides use of relaxin in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and prevention of a condition selected from cutaneous aging, androgenetic alopecia and related conditions, e.g., atrophy, sclerosis and miniaturization of the hair and hair follicles. The medicament may comprise relaxin in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable, e.g. topically acceptable, carrier, and may be used, for example, for prolonging the duration of the anagen stage of hair growth.

In another aspect, the invention provides a method for the treatment and prevention of a condition selected from cutaneous aging, androgenetic alopecia and related conditions, which comprises administering to a human in which said treatment or prevention is desired, an effective amount of relaxin. In this method, relaxin may be administered in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable (e.g. a topically acceptable) carrier. The method may thus be used, e.g. , for the treatment and prevention of a condition selected from atrophy, sclerosis and miniaturization of the hair and hair follicles, or for prolonging the duration of the anagen stage of hair growth.

In yet another aspect, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment and prevention of a condition selected from cutaneous aging, androgenetic alopecia and related conditions, which comprises relaxin in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, e.g. a topically acceptable carrier.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As is known, the cyclic activity of the hair is divided into three stages: a period of active growth known as anagen, a short transition phase called catagen, and a resting period which ends in hair loss, called telogen.

It is also an accepted fact that the percentage of follicles in anagen rises steeply during pregnancy, when as many as 95% of the follicles are active. Two to four months after parturition, the proportion falls to less than 70%. Thus it appears that the hormonal conditions of late pregnancy prolong anagen, and follicles are consequently precipitated into telogen via catagen after parturition.

Androgenetic alopecia (AA) , which is also called common baldness, or male pattern baldness, independent of its causes, is the cutaneous aging of a particular zone, the scalp. AA can be defined, on one hand, as atrophy, sclerosis or miniaturization of the hair follicle, and on the other hand, a progressive shortening of the average duration of the anagen stage, which results in vellus hair prior to complete disappearance.

The dermal papilla is a connective tissue structure situated at the base of the hair follicle. In anagen follicles, the papilla invaginates the epithelial hair bulb matrix, remaining in contact with the fibrous sheath surrounding the follicle via a narrow stalk at its base.

The papilla is composed of specialized fibroblast-like cells and the root sheath contains fibroblast population. The dermal papilla plays a fundamental role in induction, maintenance and regulation of hair growth.

During anagen, the papilla cells lie in an extracellular matrix rich in mucopolysaccharides and basement membrane proteins and display ultra-structural features indicative of synthetic activity. The extracellular matrix gradually diminishes during catagen and disappears

almost completely during telogen. It is now generally accepted that fibroblasts are responsible for the manufacture of all the dermal connective tissue elements or their precursors, i.e., ground substance, collagen and elastin.

Relaxin influences the fibroblasts and fibroblast-like cells of the pilosebaceous unit. Relaxin treatment, either topically or systematically, will result in preventing atrophy, sclerosis and miniaturization of the hair, by prolonging the duration of the anagen stage, or otherwise. It will remodulate the aging process in general and in particular the AA in male and female.

Thus, according to the present invention, there is provided a composition which can be applied topically in lotion, gel or cream form, or systematically for internal or parenteral use, in the form of capsules, tablets or ampules, for treatment of androgenetic alopecia and related conditions such as alopecia areata, anagen effluvium, telogen post-partum alopecia, diffuse alopecia, and alopecia androgenica.

Similarly, the composition of the present invention could be used in the prevention and treatment of cutaneous aging in areas other than the scalp.

Said compositions can be in the form of creams, lotions, ointments or gels, prepared for use in any conventional manner, in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers and diluents.

The compositions may take such forms as suspension, solutions, or emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles, and may contain formulatory agents such as emulsifying, suspending, stabilizing, gelling and/or dispersing agents.

Alternatively, the active ingredients may be in powder form for constitution with a suitable vehicle, e.g., sterile, pyrogen-free water, free water, before use.

While it is possible for the active ingredients to be administered alone, it is preferable to present them as pharmaceutical formulations. The formulations of the present invention comprise at least one active ingredient, as above defined, together with one or more acceptable carriers therefor and optionally other therapeutic ingredients. The carrier (s) must be acceptable in the sense of being compatible with the other ingredients of the formulation and not deleterious to the recipient thereof.

The formulations may conveniently be presented in unit dosage form and may be prepared by any of the methods well known in the art of pharmacy. Such methods include the step of bringing into association the active ingredient with the carrier, which constitutes one or more accessory ingredients. In general, the formulations are prepared by uniformly and intimately bringing into association the active ingredient with liquid carriers or finely divided solid carriers, or both, and then, if necessary, shaping the product.

The formulations are preferably applied as a topical lotion, gel or cream, containing the active ingredient in a concentration of, for example, 0.005 % - 10.0%, preferably 0.01% - 5.0% w/w and most preferably 0.05% - 2% w/w. When formulated in a cream, the active ingredients may be employed with an oil-in-water cream base.

If desired, the aqueous phase of the cream base may include, for example, at least 30 % w/w of a polyhydric alcohol, i.e., an alcohol having two or more hydroxyl groups such as propylene glycol, butane-1,3-diol, mannitol, sorbitol, glycerol and polyethylene glycol and mixtures thereof. The topical formulations many desirably include compound which enhances absorption or penetration of the active ingredient through the skin or other affected areas. Examples of such dermal penetration enhancers include dimethylsulphoxide and related analogues.

The oily phase of the emulsions of this invention may be constituted from known ingredients in a known manner.

While the phase may comprise merely an emulsifier (otherwise known as an emulgent), it desirably comprises a mixture of at least one emulsifier with a fat or an oil or with both a fat and an oil. Preferably, a hydrophilic emulsifier is included together with a lipophilic emulsifier, which acts as a stabilizer. It is also preferred to include both an oil and a fat. Together, the emulsifier(s), with or without stabilizer(s), make up the so-called emulsifying wax, and the wax, together with the oil and/or fat, make up the so-called emulsifying ointment base, which forms the oily dispersed phase of the cream formulations.

Emulgents and emulsion stabilizers suitable for use in the formulation of the present invention include Tween 60, Span 80, cetostearyl alcohol, myristyl alcohol, glyceryl mono-stearate and sodium lauryl sulphate.

The choice of suitable oils or fats for the formulation is based on achieving the desired cosmetic properties, since the solubility of the active compound in most oils likely to be used in pharmaceutical emulsion formulations is very low. Thus, the cream should preferably be a non-greasy, non-staininq and washable product with suitable consistency to avoid leakage from tubes or other containers. Straight or branched chain, mono- or dibasic alkyl esters such as di-isoadipate, isocetyl stearate, propylene glycol diester or coconut fatty acids, isopropyl myristate, decyl oleate, isopropyl palmitate, butyl stearate, 2-ethylhexyl palmitat, or a blend of branched chain esters known as Crodamol CAP may be used, the last three being preferred esters. These may be used alone or in combination, depending on the properties required. Alternatively, high melting-point lipids, such as white soft paraffin and/or liquid paraffin, or other mineral

oils, can be used.

While the invention will now be described in connection with certain preferred embodiments in the following examples so that aspects thereof may be more fully understood and appreciated, it is not intended to limit the invention to these particular embodiments. On the contrary, it is intended to cover all alternatives, modifications and equivalents as may be included within the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims. Thus, the following examples which include preferred embodiments will serve to illustrate the practice of this invention, it being understood that the particulars shown are by way of example and for purposes of illustrative discussion of preferred embodiments of the present invention only and are presented in the cause of providing what is believed to be the most useful and readily understood description of formulation procedures as well as of the principles and conceptual aspects of the invention.

Example 1 - Lotion

Relaxin	100 mg
Deionized water	850 ml
Ethanol	150 ml

The Relaxin was dissolved in the mixture of solvents.

Example 2 - Gel

Relaxin	20 mg
Deionized water	49.0 g
Ethanol	49.0 g
Carbomer 934 P	0.5 g
Triethanolamine	0.5 g

The Relaxin was dissolved in the water/alcohol mixture. The carbomer was dispersed in the solution and the triethanolamine was added while agitating constantly.

Example 3 - Gel

Relaxin	5.0 mg
Deionized water	83.9 g
Ethanol	75.0 g
Carbomer 934 P	0.25 g
HPMC 4000 cps	0.60 g
Triethanolamine	0.25 g

The Relaxin and HPMC were dissolved in the water and the alcohol was added. The carbomer was dispersed in the solution and triethanolamine was added while agitating.

Example 4 - Cream

Relaxin	1.0 g
Cetylester wax	2.0 g
Polysorbate 60	1.0 g
Paraffin oil	10.0 g
Carbomer 934 P	1.0 g
Glycerol	5.0 g
Potassium sorbate	0.2 g
Ammonia 25%	0.7 g
Deionized water	to 100 g

The Relaxin, potassium sorbate, and glycerol were dissolved in water and the carbomer was dispersed in the solution, at room temperature. The cetylester wax, polysorbate and paraffin oil were heated to dissolve, and were mixed with the aqueous portion at room temperature. Ammonia was added to gel the carbomer.

Example 5 - Tablets

Quantities per tablet:

Relaxin	100 mg
Lactose	180 mg
Polyvinylpyrrolidone	10. 0 mg
Sodium starch glycollate	7.5 mg

Magnesium stearate 1.25 mg

The Relaxin and the polyvinylpyrrolidone were dissolved in a quantity of dionized water and the lactose and sodium starch glycollate were granulated in accordance with normal procedure. The granulation was dried and the magnesium stearate added. The mixture was compressed into tablets.

Example 6 = Capsules

Quantities per capsule:

Relaxin 200 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose 100 mg
Colloidal silicon dioxide 3 mg

The ingredients were thoroughly blended and filled into hard gelatin capsules.

Example 7 = Ampoules or Multidose Ampoules

Relaxin 50 mg
Benzyl alcohol 20 mg
Water for injection to 1 ml

The ingredients were dissolved in the water for injection and the solution sterilized by filtration. The ampoules were filled and sealed under aseptic conditions.

Example 8 = Implant

Relaxin 200 mg

In a suitable non-toxic medium, e.g., silicon polymer, to act as an embedding agent.

Example 9 = Slow Release Patch

Relaxin 500 mg

This is spread onto a polyester layer with an adhesive such as polyiso butylene, and covered with a siliconized polyester release liner.

Example 10 - Shampoo

Relaxin	2.0 g
Sodium lauryl ether sulphate	30.0 g
Diethanolamine of coconut oil fatty acids	6.0 g
Water	62.0 g

It will be evident to those skilled in the art that the invention is not limited to the details of the foregoing illustrative examples and that the present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the essential attributes thereof, and it is therefore desired that the present embodiments and examples be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, reference being made to the appended claims, rather than to the foregoing description, and all changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are therefore intended to be embraced therein.

CLAIMS

1. Use of relaxin in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and prevention of a condition selected from cutaneous aging, androgenetic alopecia and related conditions.

2. Use according to claim 1, wherein said medicament comprises relaxin in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

3. Use according to claim 2, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a topically acceptable carrier.

4. Use according to claim 1, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and prevention of a condition selected from atrophy, sclerosis and miniaturization of the hair and hair follicles.

5. Use according to claim 1, for the manufacture of a medicament for prolonging the duration of the anagen stage of hair growth.

6. Method for the treatment and prevention of a condition selected from cutaneous aging, androgenetic alopecia and related conditions, which comprises administering to a human in which said treatment or prevention is desired, an effective amount of relaxin.

7. Method according to claim 6, wherein relaxin is administered in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. Method according to claim 7, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a topically acceptable carrier.

9. Method according to claim 6, for the treatment and prevention of a condition selected from atrophy, sclerosis and miniaturization of the hair and hair follicles.

10. Method according to claim 6, for prolonging the duration of the anagen stage of hair growth.

11. Pharmaceutical composition for the treatment and prevention of a condition selected from cutaneous aging, androgenetic alopecia and related conditions, which comprises relaxin in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a topically acceptable carrier.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/NL 94/00239

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 A61K38/22 //A61K7/06,A61K7/48

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	INDIAN JOURNAL OF DERMATOLOGY AND VENEREOLOGY, vol.39, no.5, 1973, BOMBAY, INDIA pages 199 - 202 R.N. SHAH ET AL. 'A CASE REPORT OF GENERALISED MORPHEA.' see page 201, right column, line 17 - page 202, right column, line 32; figures 1,2 ---	1-12
X	CH,A,661 662 (G.L. FLOERSHEIM) 14 August 1987 see page 2, right column, line 46 - line 63; claims see page 3, left column, line 12 - line 15 see page 3, left column, line 34 - line 45 see page 3, right column, line 8 - line 30 --- -/--	1-4,6-9, 11,12

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
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Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Ryckebosch, A

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International Application No
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION JOURNAL, vol.78, no.12, 15 June 1958, OTTAWA, CA pages 935 - 941 R.X. SANDS 'RELAXIN-A CLINICAL REVIEW.' see page 937, right column, line 32 - page 938, left column, line 60	1-12

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No
PCT/NL 94/00239

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
CH-A-661662	14-08-87	NONE	